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Planting Problems at Camp Kearny
War on Garden Pests
The Rose—The Lath House—Flower Garden
Experience and Observations



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The California Garden

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No. 8



GAIN we are late, but so is the rain and the latter is the sorer needed. And just at this writing the wind blows and the rain comes and the daily press rejoices and has its first seasonal triumphant announcement of CROPS ASSURED. There is something beautiful in the faith of these assurances, albeit they are born of a supreme ignorance of the moisture needs of crops. We of these latter days pride ourselves upon our independence of thought and action. We laugh at the Indian who performed his rain making ceremonies, we center our welfare in our own action, and a great many pray no more for anything but just go out and get it, but for weeks we have helplessly watched for a cloud in the sky powerless to create anything but a smudge of smoke and each morning as the sun rose clear from behind the mountains, and every evening as the whole galaxy of stars twinkled, we have expressed a faith we deny in saying, "Oh, well, it will rain plenty yet."

No man has any business in the garden that has not faith. It requires real faith to put the tiny seed in the ground believing to reap a turnip, particularly if one has knowledge of the drouth that shrivels the sparrow, that picks the worm, that destroys, and the truly faithful who have planted hoping for rain will be miles ahead of the cautious faithless who have waited.

The world wants this faith emphasized in life. We want faith in each other, in ourselves, in our gods, whatsoever they be. It is abundantly shown forth in all our war operations that the lack of faith is the main drag. The war in its inception showed it and has accentuated it ever since. Food conservation would be so simple if we had faith; faith in the administration, faith in each other. The food horder hordes because he has no faith that the other fellow won't; the deliberate ignorer of conservation measures ignores for lack of faith; faith in the measure, faith in his fellows, and faith in his country's cause. Perhaps we want a Peter the Hermit to preach a Crusade.

The man off the farm has deemed the

farmer the fortunate one in these days of high prices, but now these through their representatives have invaded Washington to ask for special consideration of their unfortunate condition that they may increase the harvest for 1918. They say, "The chief obstacles which must be removed before the farmers of America can equal or surpass this year the crop of 1917 are, 1, Shortage of farm labor; 2, Shortage of seed, feed, fertilizers, farm implements, and other agricultural supplies; 3, Lack of reasonable credit; 4, Prices often below the cost of production; 5, The justified belief of the farmer that he is not regarded as a partner in the great enterprise of winning the war.

One can hardly fail to wonder at that last item, for millions of statements saying the farmer is to win the war have been made officially, semi-officially and unofficially. Our national commercial trend of thought leads all of us whatever our occupation to think that we should serve our pocket as well as our patriotism in this war. It is not an acknowledged, often quite an unrecognized, bias but it is there. Yet with billions spent for destruction, or the engines of destruction, some one has to pay for the smoke that results. We hope the farmer will get all that is coming to him, for with all his faults we have to love him still, because he is so necessary to our existence.

Our latest Home Food Card emphasizes Potatoes as a very steady diet and the reports of the stock of produce on the Coast list them as very plentiful. Can this be a reason why as a general thing folks seem to be fed up on this item and they don't taste the same as when one could carry home a quarter's worth in a vest pocket. IT is to be wondered whether a rise in price and a rumor of scarcity would not popularize the spud, anyway it would be an interesting experiment in psychology.

We can now begin to talk about Rose Show. How would it be to hold it out at Camp Kearny, of course if the authorities will consent? They must remember that there is no rose without a thorn.

War Continued on Garden Pests

G. R. GORTON



ALMOST everyone in this favored "corner of the globe"—to use an Irishism—who owns a yard and trees, numbers among those trees either Orange, Lemon, Grapefruit or other

various ornamental trees and shrubs and deciduous fruit trees, and if so, he is more or less concerned to keep them alive and happy, even though they are not of commercial value in the sense that several acres would be,—or should be. However, from time to time certain insect pests appear and have to be combatted, or the pleasing appearance or even the life of the tree will be endangered. Probably the commonest of the scale insects and the easiest to control is Black Scale—technically yclept *Saissetia oleae*. In color this species varies from very light brown in the young to black in the adult females. The female of the species is given particular mention, not because it is "more deadly than the male," necessarily, but because it is more conspicuous. In shape Black Scale varies from almost flat to nearly hemispherical, about $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, a distinct letter "H" embossed upon its back. By reason of its size and color the adult female is very easy to determine. This pest is not particularly discriminating in its tastes, as, besides all species of citrus trees it feeds upon a great variety of deciduous fruit trees and ornamental trees and shrubs. Its work consists of extracting the juices from the plant it chooses as a host, to such an extent as to retard the growth of the tree, but seldom to cause its death. The greatest damage is due to the fact that the scales exude a large amount of honey dew, in which grows the black smut fungus, causing a very disagreeable smutting of fruit and foliage of the trees infested. Control recommended is either fumigation with hydrocyanic acid gas or spraying with one of several emulsions of one of the mechanical mixtures of kerosene, distillate, etc., the preference usually being shown to fumigation, although excellent kills may result from proper spraying before the scales are half grown. With reasonable care, fumigation is quite practicable for the home orchard, the usual difficulty being that the average person does not possess a tent of sufficient size to cover a tree of very great proportions. Granting, however, that this requirement may be met with, the rest is comparatively simple.

The process is as follows:

Formula A.

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Sodium Cyanide | 1 oz. |
| Sulphuric | 1½ Fl. oz. |
| Water | 2 Fl. oz. |

Formula B.

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Potassium Cyanide..... | 1 oz. |
| Sulphuric Acid | 1 oz. |
| Water | 3 Fl. oz. |

Either of the above formulas may be used. Formula "A", however, is usually preferred. If, however, difficulty is experienced in obtaining Sodium Cyanide in small quantities, Formula "B" will give good results.

The trees or plants to be treated are covered with a tent or similar covering or practically air-tight material.

In an earthenware container (considerably larger than is necessary to contain the required ingredients) place in the order mentioned:

1. Water
2. Sulphuric Acid
3. Cyanide

Don't add cyanide until container has been placed under the covering.

Either of the above formulas is sufficient for 100 cubic feet of space under the covering. Additional space would be treated accordingly.

Trees or plants are allowed to remain covered for a period of one hour.

Fumigation should be carried on in a cool, shady place, or at night.

DO NOT BREATHE FUMES generated, as they are deadly poisonous.

In fumigating for black scale, what is known as three-fourths schedule, three-fourths of the above formula is ordinarily used.

If it is desired to spray, an excellent emulsion is prepared in small quantities as follows:

Dissolve 1 inch of soap (whale oil or laundry) in 1 pint of hot water. Add 1 pint Kerosene. Churn with egg beater.

For trees or plants in foliage dilute above stock solution with 3 gallons water.

For deciduous trees in dormant season dilute above with 1 gallon of water.

Used as control for Scale Insects.

If properly made, this solution will stay in emulsion for a long period of time. Spraying should be done thoroughly, and if possible with a pump which will exert from 150 to 200 pounds pressure.

Red and Purple Scales, while entirely dissimilar both in appearance and life history, are very similar in deadly effect upon whatever trees they effect to bestow their attentions. A partial dropping of leaves is followed by complete defoliation, and finally the death of the tree is apt to be the result of a bad infestation with either of these scales.

Red Scale (technically addressed as *Chrysomphalus aurantii*) is circular in shape, varying from 1-16 to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter and with a distinct "peak". The body of the scale is dull brick red in color. Like the Black Scale, this species is more or less omnivorous in its tastes, attacking very much the same species of trees and shrubs as does its dusky companion in crime. The control varies in certain respects from that used in infestations of Black Scale. If fumigation is employed, a 100% or 110% dosage is used, which means obviously that the full formula "A" or "B" is used or quite frequently 10% more than the schedule given is deemed advisable. Spraying, while fairly effective, is not nearly so satisfactory as in the treatment of Black Scale, except in the case of deciduous trees, but repeated applications tend to keep the pest somewhat under subjection until arrangements can be made to fumigate, which latter treatment is strongly advised.

If spraying is to be resorted to, the formula for kerosene emulsion given above will prove about as satisfactory as any spray solution on trees or plant in foliage. In the case of de-

ciduous fruit trees in the dormant season, good results may be obtained from the use of the commercial Lime Sulfur, in proportions of 1 to 9, that is, 1 part Lime Sulfur to 9 parts of water. This is only efficacious when the trees are without foliage.

Purple Scale (*Lepidosaphes beckii*) which has quite as evil a reputation as has Red Scale, is totally different in appearance, the females being somewhat elongated and shaped somewhat like a comma or apostrophe. The size varies from 1-10 to 1-7 inch in length, the width being about $\frac{1}{8}$ of the length, while the color varies from a light brown to a reddish purple. Its menu covers a much narrower range of host plants than either black or Red Scale. Control is practically the same as for Red Scale.

It not infrequently happens that two or all of the three scales mentioned are present on the same tree, in which case it is customary to choose the time for spraying with regard to the age of the Black Scale, and with a dosage sufficient to kill Purple Scale. This rule applies to either fumigation or spraying.

The ROSE

A. D. Robinson



UNFORTUNATELY there has been no change in the situation to make possible any modification of the remarks in the last Garden relative to the need of very complete irrigation where new rose bushes are set out and the old established ones will be materially helped by a like treatment, for the exceptionally warm dry season is pushing the buds very fast. This also means that any pruning not already attended to should be rushed. It is well to remember that our big rose crop comes right on the top of our rainy season and it is a well known fact that roses seem most at home in a moist cool climate, therefore the bushes should now be preparing for their grand effort in soil thoroughly soaked way down below their roots, and lest there be some who consider the rain of late January a soaker be it said that ground which was plowed last year has just been plowed again and in the doing revealed dry soil that has not been wet since last March. Roses want the soil wet below their lowest roots.

It would seem a special opportunity because a point of wisdom also to raise fewer and better roses. The bushes will need extra care, not only in irrigating but more than our usual warmth and drouth mean a picnic time for bugs and mildew, strange as it may seem with regard to the latter, nevertheless mildew will surely attack bushes lacking moisture and all

insects and diseases find ready victims in plants that are not growing vigorously when they should.

Many times it has been advised that pruning should be followed by a rubbing off of all buds except the few best placed to give fine blooms. Every bud has two others on its sides and these will often begin to grow before the center one has fairly started. If the whole three be left none will reach perfection, but short stemmed inferior blooms will result, Rub off the side ones and get a fine rose, also see that a small branch is not asked to bear a whole bouquet—two or three at the most is enough. It is a fact as melancholy as true that San Diego is continually featuring a bunch of roses on one stalk holding them up so that the uninitiated may wonder while the informed weep. These are evidence of a lack of rose knowledge or too great an inertia to practice it. What do you buy at the florists, that is if you do buy? Do you buy multi-blooming stalks or a perfect bud upon a long stem.

The writer has not had time to visit the Park rose garden and inspect the technique of Mr. Slack, but he feels sure that now his rose bushes look as if they had greatly offended him and had their heads chopped off. Because the writer has not had time is no excuse for the readers and they should go and

(Continued on page 12)

Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD



ALL this time I have never said a word about the war, but like the parrot which did not talk I have been doing a devil of a lot of thinking and had concluded that there was real distinction in being the only one that had not, but I cannot keep it up, it would look like affectation to do so, and I am not affected though I have an accent.

I do not know why it should be supposed that all of us would take the war the same way, but there has been quite a spell during which each of us knew the only right attitude and that was our own, but we are getting more tolerant, largely because we are sensing the big issue as overshadowing details in its adjustment. Lots of us cannot understand the kind of mind that feels an obligation to bait officials and delay important work while they talk but even these must have a justification to themselves and democracy throws its cloak over a wondrous miscellany.

My garden is most faithfully tended by the most conscientious of gardeners whose attitude on the war is summed up in his oft repeated statement, "I just shivered and shook when I read we had got in." He feels we ought not to have got in but has no explanation of how we could have kept out. He is appalled by the figures of the war, millions of most things, billions of lots of others, and when he takes a day off and goes to town he returns with a long list of statements made to him of what the war is going to do to him personally. His clothes from cap to shoe are daily growing more expensive, he cannot buy flour without potatoes and he does not like potatoes and he fears somebody is making a lot of money out of the whole business.

His is the extreme case of a lack of range of vision, but there are an awful lot of folks who, while not confessing to shivers and shakes, say, "Oh the terrible war; I don't like to talk about it. Let's speak of something else," it is the same old feeling differently worded according to education. I am bringing this matter up because every week I have to go all over the same ground again with my shiverer and shaker to try and give him a more hopeful view and I wish that some of his town mentors would tell him for a change things on the other side. Could they not when he had to dig up another quarter for overalls explain to him that it was money in the bank of self-respect; that every American had a right to be proud of his country being the focus point in this titanic struggle for the liberty to be and live what the name American stands for? There is a

definite duty to turn all this pessimistic small-talk into optimistic big hopes. Don't harp on consolation born of the thought that in other lands folks are so much worse off. It is simply trading on others' misfortune, and the man that can warm himself with a match, because elsewhere others freeze without even so little, ought to catch fire and burn up. Let us dwell upon our privileges and think of others' misfortunes only to render help. Clothes cost more. What of it? Wear your old ones. How many folks in our burg but have from one to ten discarded suits passed over, not for lack of covering one's nakedness, but because of a little wear, old style, and all the rest of it. Only a week ago a dress came back to a fashionable tailor in this city for repairs to seams or gussets or something and the tailor said, "What can she expect? She has worn that dress THREE times. Half the year San Diegans could go barefooted without much suffering except in their minds and corns would become a thing of the past. When the shopkeeper says, "You will pay more next time," he trades upon the habit of the human animal to do again what he has always done, but between our present uses and the possible limit of going without is a wide margin. Most of us are going around hugging to ourselves the idea that with our wheatless and meatless days we are making horrible sacrifices. The truth of the matter is that the Government has not asked for any sacrifice at all in this matter. It merely asks you to eat corn instead of wheat, chicken instead of beef, and if your doctor prescribed this change to you for a stomach ache and charged you \$20 for doing so you would obey like a lamb and feel better for it.

I have got to write this way. I cannot knit and every time I drive my superannuated old auto on the road I meet countless very new and shiny ones occupied by two ladies. One drives, the other knits, and they both look at me as much as to say, "What the devil are you doing to help to win the war?" and I am abashed for the knitting and the needles and the brilliantly variegated bag are so insistent. I go to a little library to get a book and find therein eager maidens to whom the attendant says, "No I have no sweater, but you can have socks." I return home to be greeted in my yard by the neighbor, knitting of course, who wants a chicken to eat, and while explaining just what kind of a one she puts knitting and needles away in that enormous bag and fishes out another complete outfit with the remark that it tires her to knit too long on one color, etc., so she generally keeps two going at the

same time. Before this I felt kind of ashamed of wearing a sweater, albeit an old one, but if every woman is knitting two all the time auto-ing, marketing, etc., I guess I can do it at least while the mornings stay cold.

There is a chance for a great emancipation from little tyrannies in these times. For years I have been wearing a patent undersuit as expensive as ill-fitting. No matter what old coat and pants hung on the outside these exclusive things were hidden beneath. They could not stand much wear, they started in full of holes. Half the time one leg of the pants would shrink three inches more than the other, but for close to twenty years they have been a fetish. Now, praise God, the store says, "We cannot get any more, so we

are selling off the stock, you had better buy what you can," which was just pants, but with a joyous feeling of relief I realize I don't have to have the darned old things any more and may buy cheaply and variously a different kind every time. I run the chances of ruffling your susceptibilities by referring to undergarments because it is a true instance and enables me to punctuate my advice to shake off your old men of the sea when the chance comes whether they are just buttons or the whole garment.

Most of us know we ought to be in this war, are in it, and our job is to get out right. Well, talk and act according to the knowledge.

The Flower Garden

Miss Mary Matthews



ORDINARILY, at this season of the year, the rains have helped the growth of all bulbous plants, also annuals and perennials, which were started in the fall. This season, with the scanty rains we have had and no promise of more in the near future, we will have to attend to the water question very carefully, if we wish good blooms. All the bulbs, if well soaked every week or so, and given every now and then a spraying overhead, will reward us with a few choice blooms at least, and the bulb itself will not be injured, but will retire at the close of the season and appear again the following year.

Seedlings of the annuals and perennials will likely disappoint us as far as early blooms are concerned. Freesias ought to give us good blooms, if they were planted on the north side early in the fall and have been well watered. Oxalis is another good thing just now, for they come up and bloom abundantly everywhere, and are beautiful as a border plant, particularly the single large white, the rose colored, and the very large lavender with yellow eye. The yellow Bermuda Oxalis is a veritable nuisance and should be planted very sparingly, if at all.

The young pansy plants can still be planted in permanent places on the shady side, if possible, as a cool moist soil is needed. In the lath house for violets 42 to 45 degrees is warm enough at night. A low temperature retards the blossoming, but lengthens stems. Keep the dead leaves and spent blooms picked at all times.

Old clumps of Shasta daisies can now be lifted and divided. Cut off all last year's growth and plant with the crown just even with the ground in an open sunny spot. Mulch well with manure.

Where your ground is in good condition,

moist, and the soil fine and well pulverized, put in the seeds of poppies, lupines, cornflowers, celosia, or any of the quick growing things. There is now on the market an annual hollyhock that, put in now, should give blooms by August. The flowers come double, semi-double and single, in various colors. "Henderson's Ever-blooming Hollyhock," by the way the large establishment of Henderson & Co. have eliminated all greenhouse stock, and is a seed house exclusively, thinking that under present conditions we will be called upon to supply the greater part of the seeds needed by the country.

Caladiums, alocacias and coleus can now be repotted after their winter's rest. Shake the old soil from the tubers, and pot in small pots, allowing about half an inch of soil between the tubers and the side of the pot. The soil should be good fibrous loam, leaf-mold and a little sand.

Put in boxes now, seeds of the salpiglossis and schizanthus. Both belong to the solanum family, coming from Chile, and give beautiful flowers. Some of the salpiglossis are really wonderful in coloring, every one having a glint of gold in it.

In fact, wherever your ground is in good condition, plant everything you are able to care for. We cannot have too many flowers this year. There will be many places for them; so many who will be cheered by their beauty and fragrance; so plant and plant, and give and give to those who have none. We need not neglect the more useful things, but both can be grown. I saw a lovely "kitchen garden" the other day, with thrifty peas, lettuce, beets, carrots, etc., and at the corners of some beds were clumps of daffodils and ranunculus. One strip of garden peas was bordered with old-fashioned China pinks.



Camp Kearny

Its Planting Problems



By Guy L. Fleming.

AN immense mesa entirely denuded of its vegetation and its naturally shallow soil turned topsy-turvy during a process of leveling does present something of a problem for the planter. A bit of history regarding another mesa may give some courage to the officers and men at Camp Kearny who are attempting to beautify their cantonment.

The mesa on which the greater part of San Diego is situated has an average depth of soil of probably eight inches. The underlying strata varies from a red granite conglomerate called "hard-pan" to a well compounded mixture of 'dobe and gravel; this latter is found, too, in a petrified state that is equal to concrete in firmness. This condition of affairs has not discouraged the great eucalyptus, palms, and other trees that deck the city's sky-line. The smaller trees and shrubs seem to flourish, and do claim the admiration of the visitor. The lawns make a respectable showing, and many of them cannot claim more than two inches of soil. (For San Diego, as well as Camp Kearny, has the mule and scrapper to thank for alterations in the landscape. Camp Kearny has the advantage over San Diego, in that there the alterations were made to conform to the particular purpose for which the Camp was incorporated.) As a rule the trees and shrubs were planted in a shallow hole milled out with a dull pick and an old shovel. An occasional watering and mulching has produced the present day appearance. In the Park and in the better home plantings more care has been given the young trees, but the above method has been the rule.

Camp Kearny has all the variations of sub-soil, but the top soil is better than the most seen about the city. It is a red granite formation, somewhat clayey, whence given to baking, but it contains material that is very beneficial to vegetation, and if a good mulch is applied its sticky character becomes a good point by conserving moisture.

The growth of the native shrubs and of the neglected trees of some of the ranches adjoining the cantonment are examples of what the soil will produce without man's help. Nature is a wonderful provider and has equipped these shrubs and trees with a root system that is capable of penetrating and disintegrating the underlying "hard-pan" and of extracting valuable food from it.

Now that we have shown that Camp Kearny has no more serious problem than the ordinary "sub-division", except it is on a

larger scale, we will offer the following suggestion as to the planting. First let us state that a committee appointed by the Floral Association has made several visits to the cantonment and they have been very much impressed by the interest the officers and men have taken in the plan for planting, and it was a pleasure to note the work some had accomplished about their quarters. Especially so as each man is anxious to be "over there" and is hoping for the order to move. It is because of our knowledge of this interest, and of the difficulties encountered in these individual plantings, that we make this suggestion.

A uniformity of planting should be carried throughout each street. One street might have the "black acacia" as its chief feature, placed every fifty feet, with hardy shrubs, such as, wild lilac, lemonade berry, holly-leaved cherry in between. Another might have our native "iron-wood", *Lyonthamnus* for the larger planting, using *Melaleucas*, *Hakeas*, or *Lycium richi*, another hardy native in between. Other trees that come to mind are, *Parkinsonia aculeata*, a native, *Ceratonia*, (St. John's Bread), *Casuarina*, *Pittosporum crassifolium*, Cypress and the pepper tree. Other shrubs are, *Leptospermum*, the *Pittosporum tobira*, shrubby acacias, *A. verticillata*, *A. latifolia*, *A. floribunda*, *Lantanas*, *Spartium junceum*, (Spanish Broom), and *Rhamnus californica* and *crocea*, natives.

Eucalyptus could be used to the best advantage about the parade grounds, there placed every hundred feet with small trees or shrubs in the intervals. *Eucalyptus*, too, would show up well, grouped with smaller trees, near the larger buildings.

Good shrubs to use against the permanent buildings are, *Hakeas*, *Melaleucas*, *Leptospermum*, the shrubby *Acacias*, *Lantanas*, and the native shrubs, *Holly-leaved Cherry*, *Wild-lilac*, *Rhamnus*, *Lemonade Berry*, and *Lycium richi*.

Lawns under the present conditions will be a disappointment. If there must be a lawn plant *Bermuda grass*. Try instead groupings of shrubs, or beds of hardy perennials and annuals. A plot of Spanish broom or of *Matilija* poppies would excite more comment than any lawn. Other shrubs that would prove satisfactory are the *Tree Mallow* and the *Tree Lupines*. *Aloes* and *Sedums*, too, and the *Spanish Bayonet*, the *Century Plants*, and *Echiums*, would make interesting and attractive plantings. Palms are a delusion. Their place is only in a large grouping. And they

must have their feet in the water if they are to attain anything like perfection.

The trees and shrubs mentioned are the pioneers of the plant world, able to stand the greatest degree of harship. When once established they will take care of themselves, and very likely make better individual specimens than the same class of plants under intensive civilization. An example is the naturalized planting of eucalyptus and acacias that have made a bit of Australia of the mesa at Encinitas. The same method of planting and care will apply to all. That is: To make the holes as large as possible under the conditions. Most of the material obtained will have been "balled" or grown in cans or pots, in which case a hole a foot more in diameter and an inch or deeper than the ball will do. A larger hole back-filled with good soil would give the plant a better start, and a half a stick of dynamite turned loose in the substrata would afford better drainage, but we believe that the trees will grow and make a good showing where this is impossible. To make generous basins about the plants and fill with strawy manure. **Do Not put Manure** about the roots, lest your plants become dyspeptic. Fill the basins with water at the time of planting and then every two weeks or as often as necessary to keep the soil in a moist condition. There are apt to be more casualties from over watering than from drought. At least once a month remove the mulch and

cultivate lightly to break the "crust" and to give the soil some air. Keep the basins free of weeds and grass. A good sized weed will take up as much water as your small tree.

When you have a group of shrubs in close planting one basin will answer for the group. Arrange your beds for annuals and perennials as sunken plats and irrigate by flooding. Sow the seed broadcast in these plats. Mixing the finer sorts with a liberal amount of sand or dirt will make them go farther and prevent crowding. Rake lightly and flood slowly. It is best to turn the water in on a piece of burlap until the plants are well rooted.

In those beds plant: California poppies, nasturtiums, snapdragons, salpiglossis, cosmos, larkspur, coreopsis, and our native coreopsis, which is called "sea-dahlia", encelia, calliopsis, calendula, gaillardia, and scabiosa.

Honeysuckle, *Solanum jasminoides*, *Bigonia tweediana*, Australian Pea Vine, Japanese morning glory, and the Wire Vine, are all hardy climbers.

There are many other good things that might be given a place on this list, but those mentioned should give Camp Kearny considerable color and variety.

The San Diego Floral Association is willing to co-operate, insofar as its members are able, in making the planting of the cantonment a success. And it extends an invitation to the officers and men to call on them.

Something Worth While for YOU to Do

The first consignment of flowers for the Base Hospital at Camp Kearny left this afternoon, February the sixth, by Ford Special, in charge of Chaplain Horene, of the 158th Infantry. The shipment consisted of a dozen large boxes and several generous bunches of assorted posies.

Chaplain G. L. Horene is without a doubt a divine institution, for he came to us at a time when we were in despair as to how we were best going to get flowers to the Camp Hospital and have them properly distributed. Saturday afternoon he appeared at our President's office, having been sent there by some one who thought that the Floral Association was the proper organization to recommend to fill his need for flowers in the work at the Base Hospital. The Chaplain's work is among those who are seriously ill and those whose time here is but a little while. He is in a position to see that each ward has its share of bloom and that a flower will get to some boy who is in need of just that bit of the Great Garden.

Let us see to it that each Wednesday afternoon his little Ford is loaded to the run-

ning-boards. Bring your flowers in pasteboard boxes if possible and packed in damp newspapers. Acacias and shrub cuttings need not be packed. If you have any odd vases or jars that would do for placing on bed-side stands, kindly find a place for them in your box.


The flowers are to be left at the ROOMS OF THE STATE FEDERATION SOCIETIES, 107 BROADWAY, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF ONE AND THREE, EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. NO FLOWERS CAN BE SENT AFTER THREE O'CLOCK.

For the benefit of the Armenian sufferers, Alfred D. Robinson will give a lecture on "Italy in the War Zone", Monday evening, February 18, in the parlor of the First Congregational Church. The lecture will be illustrated by stereopticon slides made from photographs taken by Mr. Robinson.

Make a pledge with yourself to take some flowers EVERY Wednesday to the rooms of the Federation of State Societies, Spreckels Building, to be sent to Camp Kearny. They must be in before 3:00 o'clock, in order to go out with the load.

The Lath House

A. D. Robinson

 WAS watering in my lathhouse just one week after the blessed rain of late January and I wondered how many of my readers had thought of doing so so soon. I found it very necessary, especially in the case of hanging baskets, which get the full weight of the drying winds, but of course I confined my sprinkling to these and potted things, arguing that if the growths in the ground were not real grateful for the down pour they ought to be. The cinerarias which have been held in pots in the hopes of getting a line on color before putting out have distinctly perked up since the rain and lost that "what is the use" kind of look and their dejection has passed to the coleus, nevertheless many of the latter bid fair to come through our winter (this term is not a bit applicable to us but rainy season would be equally ridiculous). The coleus in pots will now be put up on benches and kept on the dry side and should they pull through will make great bushes next, or rather this year, if well fertilized, probably regaining all their color but losing out in size of leaves. A learned authority, whom you all know, told me that a Los Angeles grower had greatly enhanced coleus color by liberal feeding of nitrate of soda, even making them sport out different colors on different branches. This same authority admires coleus in the other fellow's possession, but does not want them himself because of their attraction for mealy bug. This pest seldom bothers them under lath, especially when planted out, but a watch should always be kept for it when strong soap-suds is sufficient to make it wish it had gone elsewhere. In glass houses or windows of living rooms it is almost sure to appear. Coleus seed is cheap and very easily grown and should be ordered now. Be sure and get the best seed you can buy.

This is going to be a great lathhouse year. Not necessarily one with extra favorable weather, for that is in the lap of the gods, but one asking for a special effort therein. Concentration of effort and conservation of water all shout lathhouse, and here we have thousands of visitors who don't know anything about them except that they love them when they see them.

I am strongly urged to advocate a great tuberous begonia splurge. I would have them in the ground in pots and hanging baskets. I am looking now at a catalogue listing those so-called hanging begonias in five different colors at fifteen cents each. Three or four of these tubers in a good-sized hanging basket will make a wondrous display. Then there

are singles in seven shades, doubles in seven, frilled in nine and bearded in six. The tubers should not be started for a month or so, but you must decide now to have them and order them.

If you wish to try raising these plants from seed the seed should be started now which will require a glass house or a good window and there is many a bow window in our houses of the style of a few years ago that would make a mighty nice little conservatory. The seed is exceedingly fine, being just brown dust and is scattered on the top of finely sifted soil of a light character, preferably baked beforehand. Experts claim peculiar merit in cigar boxes as receptacles though others use pot saucers. The soil must not be allowed to get dry and all watering has to be by suction from below; this favors the saucer. Even experts sow the seed a hundred times too thick, for if it is good a pinch will yield many hundred plants. They must be picked and grown on as soon as possible, but when really under way are quite hardy. Seed sown right away should make plants to bloom this year and good tubers for next year. The tubers increase in size for several years, but are at their best in their second and third year. After that the flowers grow smaller. Growers for exhibition seldom use tubers over an inch across.

Though so much emphasis is put upon tuberous, the other begonias should find much favor, and that big green leaved *Verschfeldti* seems to like this season for it is now full of great flower spikes ready to burst into pink. Its blooming season is usually coincident with heavy rains which drive holes through the big leaves which hold quite a good deal of water and break the flower shoots. It is safe to keep a constant watch on this plant and see that neither water nor dead leaves lodge in the leaves which are carried horizontally. At its best this begonia is wonderful. The best potted specimen I have seen was in San Quentin prison, where the inmates had a well furnished glass house and a most attractive garden. In case you are curious I might add that I was there with some very juvenile undigested flowers of thought to beguile a Sunday morning.

Looking round the lathhouse I feel that the inmates have gotten mixed about seasons. There is a disposition to get up and grow in many things that ought to know better and lots of the begonias have been flowering right along; any way, their's is the courageous way, living in the eternal now, responding to the sun of today without fussing

about the cloud of tomorrow. Supposing they do get nipped later on, will they sulk? Not a bit. They will start right in all over again. I am talking about this too early start because I am afraid, not the plants, and I am telling you so that you don't go and act as if it were April and then squeal when it proves not to be. You will be perfectly safe in work-

ing in your pet manure all over your lath-house. Perhaps you don't have this kind of a pet so I will add that mine is well rotted cow stuff which should be thoroughly broken up, put it on the top of the beds good and thick, and work it in after a good rain. It is going to rain plenty yet; a man just arrived from Canada told me so.

Experiences and Observations

P. D. BARNHART.

A few of my experiences and observations in Ornamental Horticulture during the year past may be of interest to readers of California Garden.

I had always supposed that Crotons, the shrubby evergreen plants with wonderfully colored foliage, would not stand our brilliant sunlight without burning, therefore never before attempted to use them in the open until last summer.

They are extensively used in the Atlantic states for bedding purposes, with great satisfaction, by gardeners who know how to propagate and care for them during the winter months, but gardeners on this coast must always bear in mind that the relative humidity in the East is never below 65% while with us it often drops to 10%, and most of the summer season 40% is about the average.

This family of plants are native of the humid south sea islands, and have been distributed over all tropical countries. As an experiment, we planted a few in the hottest and sunniest spot on the place.

They did not make much growth, but retained their beautiful colors. I would not advise any one who has not a large bank account and an intense liking for plants to waste time and money on them out doors, but for the fellow who has a little or a large green house, artificially heated, and willing to pay for keeping the temperature up to 75 degrees at night, and as much as 100 during the day, with walks and benches wet, they surpass, in gorgeous beauty any other foliage plant in cultivation. The glass over them must be clean.

The name under which this plant is grown is an instance of how persistent an error in nomenclature is, when once established. The proper name for this family is *Codiaeum*, pronounced ko-di-e-um, and it belongs to the Euphorbiaceae.

Lopezia rosea is one of the charming plants which is not grown as extensively as it should be. The individual flowers are not large, but they are so numerous that a bed of it is very attractive, and as a forage plant for bees it is not surpassed by any other grown for that purpose, either native or exotic. In warm.

sheltered spots, even where a little frost occurs—there are no frostless spots in California—it is a mass of bloom from October to May, just when bees are short of feed. The books name this subject, *Lineata* for a specific name. My opinion of it and *albiflora* is, that they are varieties of one species, native of Mexico.

We have a very pretty *Ilex* named "Intricata," which is one of the recent introductions of the Department of Agriculture, and one of the desirable evergreen plants for this part of the country. I do not find it mentioned in any work at my command. The leaves are very small, and very abundant, dark green, very pleasing in appearance. It is very dwarf habit, and for borders where low growing shrubs are desired, this one fills the bill. The berries are not bright as is the case with most of the "hollies" and do not add anything to the appearance of the plant. It would fit into the lath houses of this southland beautifully, and I believe that the foliage is too tough for the voracious snail that infests all such structures.

Speaking of snails reminds me that corrosive sublimate, an ounce to five gallons of water, sprayed over the ground and the foliage of plants in lath houses puts this pest out of business. It destroys the eggs, and burns the feet of the creature when it crawls out of hiding for a nocturnal feast on tender things, and that, too, at a time when the gardener wants to sleep, or read, or write, or may be go to a party.

I have been experimenting with a plant sent out under the name: *Vitis quadrangularis*, that is, in plain English a square stemmed grape-vine. The stems are square all right, and the plant looks for all the world like some member of the cactus family. Evidently it is from some tropical country, and the poor thing gets cold feet during our rainy season and they rot off. I mention this for the benefit of the fellow who may see the plant advertised in the catalogue of a Florida nurseryman, and be seized with a consuming desire to get one.

Right now I have a wonderful combination of colors of flowers of two widely different

plants: *Bougainvillea Braziliensis* and *Begonia venusta*. The *Bougainvillea* is the most brilliant colored one of the tribe, and the orange colored flowers of the *Bignonia*, harmonize with it to perfection. The display is very spectacular, and does not jar the sensibilities of those aesthetic people who are always criticising the Almighty for His lack of good taste when He colored the flowers of the field, and plants the clouds of the evening sky a beautiful purple or a magenta. The high brows of the profession who take upon themselves to change the names of plants periodically, have been pleased to christen the *Bignonia* here referred to, with the generic name—*Pyrostegia*. I mention this because some fellow may see it catalogued and described under the new name, and order one, thinking that he is getting something new.

Right now there is a silk cotton tree in bloom near the Estate and a grand sight it is. A member of the *Hibiscus* tribe of plants, the flowers are large and gorgeous. Why this subject has not found its way into more gardens in this southland is one of the mysteries of the trade. I am pleased to refer to it under the old name *Eriodendron anfractuosum*, because it means something. Derived from

the Greek; *erion*, wool; and *dendron*, a tree. That is a tree which produces wool, while the new name *Cieba*, is vernacular for it in its native home and means nothing.

I have had more trouble getting a bank of *Choysia ternata* established than any other one thing that I have tried during the last three years. They will die from some root disease in spite of all that I can do.

I have been disappointed with my *Solanum Rantonetti*. At Santa Barbara it is one of the finest shrubs they grow. With me it is a shy bloomer, not well furnished with foliage. I shall dig it up and try it in a shaded situation and see what effect that will have on it.

The vicissitudes of a gardener are as the sands of the sea. We planted some sweet pea seed early in the season, with the thought in mind of having a goodly supply for the holiday season. The ground was fenced to protect the plants from rabbits, of which we have an over supply, but we did not reckon on the quail, which swarm on this place. No green feed in the wild, the birds seemed to think that we grew those sweet peas for them and helped themselves to "greens".

Californians Abroad

Guy L. Fleming (Concluded)

In the September number of the Garden our list of California plant life, now established abroad, included the Pine family. Next in order we have the following:

Plantanus racemosa, the California Sycamore, is grown as a specimen tree in the larger plantings.

Our dainty little Cream-Cups, *Platystemon californicum*, lift their sulphur-yellow blossoms from out the rock gardens.

Nearly all of the *Quercus*, or Oak, family are represented in the better plant gatherings. In England some of them are proving to be strong rivals of the aristocratic Oak of that country.

Rhamnus californica, *R. ilicifolia*, and *R. crocea* are grown because of their handsome foliage and ornamental fruits. *R. ilicifolia* (holly-leaved), and *R. crocea* are low growing compact shrubs with glossy leaves and bright red fruit. The fruit resembles that of the currant in flavor and might be made to substitute that fruit in this section. All three of the *Rhamnus* are very much at home in this country.

The *Ribes* family includes our native currants and gooseberries. Of numerous other specimens none are so fine as *R. speciosum*, *Fuchsia*-flowering Gooseberry, whose deep, red flowers with their protruding stamens resemble miniature fuchsia blossoms. It is a fine wall shrub, and a densely flowered bush

is extremely pretty and lasts in perfection a long time.

Romneya Coulteri, Matilaja Poppy, known abroad as the California Tree Poppy. It has been called the queen of all California flowers.

Grandly thou rear'st thy snowy chalice high
And in its cup a sphere of sunlight lies,
As if the warmth distilled from summer skies
Were caught to win the vagrant butterfly.

—Anon.

Rubus nutkanus, Thimble Berry, has large, fragrant, white flowers and red fruit. *R. spectabilis*, Salmon Berry, has red flowers and red or yellow fruits. These are beautiful shrubs of the northern part of the state.

Rudbeckia californica is listed as "one of the best moderate sized Golden Glows."

Among the *Salvias*, the Thistle Sage, *S. carduacea*, is the most interesting, and possibly the most beautiful. Its color combination of sage-green foliage and lilac blossoms with their orange anthers is truly delightful.

Specimens of the *Sequoia*, or Big Tree, were carried to the Old World about 1800. Today one may see trees in England well over one hundred feet in height. Botanists were somewhat puzzled as to the proper family name of these giants. *S. sempervirens* was called *Taxodium sempervirens*. *S. gigantea* was thought to be a different genus, and there was quite a scramble for names. An Englishman named

it *Wellingtonia gigantea*. Some American wrote it up as *Washingtonia gigantea*. Finally it was decided that both varieties of Big Trees were related and that they were a new family botanically. As a sort of compromise they were named *Sequoia* (after a Cherokee Indian), whose American name was George Quickstep.

The coast variety was given the specific name of *sempervirens* (evergreen), that of the Sierras was called *gigantea*. But today most of the English catalogues list the last named as *S. wellingtonia*, while some Americans list it *S. washingtonia*.

The *Silenes*, Indian Pinks, are considered excellent plants for the rock-garden.

Trillium, Wood Lily, Wake Robin. These beautiful flowers of the spring are grown in great profusion in the shrubbery borders and in the rockeries.

The *Tsuga* or Hemlock is probably the most beautiful of the conifers. California has given two to horticulture. *T. heterophylla*, with pendulous branches and dark green foliage. *T. mertensiana*, with light bluish-green foliage.

Umbellularia californica, California Laurel. Planted in the parks and gardens of S. Europe. One of the best sea-side trees. Sargent describes it as "one of the stateliest and most beautiful inhabitants of the North American forests, and no evergreen tree of temperate

regions can surpass it in the beauty of its dark dense crown of lustrous foliage and in the massiveness of habit which make it one of the striking features of the California landscape and fit to stand in any park or garden." It is more common in the foggy coast counties to the north. It is found in our southern mountains, nearly always as a shrub, but in a canyon to the east of the Laguna Mountains, at the very edge of the desert, there is a grove of fine large trees.

Our Huckleberries, *Vaccinums*, are much used for hedges. For which purpose they equal the myrtle.

Vitis californica is listed as "the best of the American grapes for colour in autumn."

It would surprise the most of the natives to see the list of *Yuccas*, Spanish Bayonets, yet all the varieties might be found in this county.

The California *Fuchsia*, *Zauschneria*, is considered a good plant for the steep sides of rockeries and as a dry wall covering.

This concludes our account of California's contribution to horticulture, such as come to our notice in the reading of garden books of the East and the Old World.

I have been wondering if some of our California boys would meet up with some of their old friends of the mountains and mesas when they visit the parks and gardens "across."

Plenty Water to Use--None to Waste

A Garden Reporter interviewed City Manager Fred Lockwood regarding the supply of water, suggesting that, if necessary, the readers of this journal could do considerable to conserve the water supply, not only in their own gardens, but in preaching the gospel of conservation to others.

Mr. Lockwood replied: "Conservation is in the air everywhere, and we should be as careful of our water supply as of any other universal need. If we don't waste water, there is no danger of the supply running short.

"On February 13, the systems contained 11,399,899,184 gallons. The daily average consumption from February 1st to 10th was 7,866,322 gallons. The daily average consumption during July 1917, the month when the most water is used, was 13,285,254 gallons. Total consumed during the year of 1917, was 3,176,114,160 gallons. During 1917 only 28,366,000 gallons of water was pumped from Mission Valley, the balance coming from Morena.

"The sanitary condition of the water delivered to consumers is of the best and is based upon the total bacterial count and the percentage of *B. coli* present in samples taken.

San Diego has been held to the U. S. Treasury Department standard, which, according to the State Board of Health Engineers, is too severe for any municipality to meet.

"There is plenty of water for all legitimate uses, but none to waste. Do not leave water running. Don't turn on a stronger stream than you require at faucet. Don't neglect leaks. If you want to help the city to conserve its water, kindly report promptly all leaks in the street to the Operating Department, City Hall, Main 6400."

That farmers are today receiving for their wheat 40 per cent of the money paid for the cash loaf whereas last year they received less than 20 per cent of the price of the loaf is a recent announcement of the U. S. Food Administration. Elimination of hoarding and speculation together with stabilization of prices are responsible for the doubled share of the retail price farmers are now receiving.

Anyway, cottontails can serve the nation better in rabbit pie than by gnawing fruit trees.

The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager
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Floral Association Meetings

Evening Meetings

February 19—With Miss Hortense Coulter, corner Second and Spruce. Car No. 4. "Ferns, Fern Beds and Their Construction." Exhibit of specimens, both fresh and dried. Mrs. A. D. Robinson, Mrs. Fleetwood, Miss K. O. Sessions.

March 19—With Mr. M. Kew, corner Spruce and Sixth streets. Car No. 1 or No. 4 to Spruce. "Aquatics, and Their Culture; Pools and Their Construction." Mr. Davison, Mr. W. D. Page.

April 16—"City Park Development Through Private Donations." Mr. John McLaren, Mr. John Morley.

May 21—Japanese Views with Stereopticon by Miss T. H. Graham of Sierra Madre, Los Angeles county.

June 18—Annual meeting.

(Continued from page 3)

see the Park man at work and ask him not more than three questions when he straightens up to take the kinks out of his back; but they are not to tell him that story of the steen roses that grew on one stem for he won't have time to say all he thinks about it.

A spraying with Bordeaux mixture or any efficient war time substitute might be very helpful. The substitute is mentioned because at Mr. Birch's establishment the writer overheard a most plausible speil for a liquid in a black bottle that was cheaper and had Bor-

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Rosecroft Barred Rock Yards

Alfred D. Robinson, Propr.

POINT LOMA, CAL.

deaux skinned a mile. Perhaps there was a misunderstanding but it seems only fair to give you a chance at such a good thing.

If you are putting in new bushes don't forget General MacArthur. He will be in great demand among our soldier boys and going to the other end Madame Cecile Bruner will be wanted in thousands for buttonholes. Baby Doll, the polyantha that came to us last year a pink-shaded yellow, is a delight though evidently no rival to Cecile. As a grower it is almost as dainty in bloom.

This is no season to put out anything but large, well grown bushes. Don't let a few cents difference induce you to start a rose kindergarten, and if you plant, do it now, with lots of water and a determination to stay with it. There is more joy in one perfect rose than in ninety and nine just roses.

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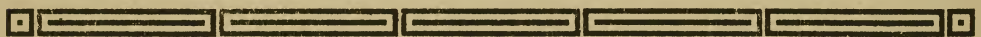
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